



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCDS

17 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL U.S. Army Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy 03-27, Soldier Demobilization Policy

1. Time constraints and limited feasibility of providing dental care at sites during demobilization dictate that the U.S. Army Dental Command establish procedures to assist both the dental units and the soldiers they serve.

2. Treatment of preexisting dental conditions rendered during mobilization to move a Dental Class 3 soldier to a deployable status of 2 does not necessarily qualify a soldier for a Line of Duty (LD) claim against the government at the end of a deployment cycle when less than 180 days. But deployments of at least 180 days activate the Veterans Administration (VA) system's benefits.

3. Assisting in LD determinations and treatment of dental conditions not met while on active duty will follow the criteria list below:

a. The dental unit/officer at the demobilization site is not the approving authority for dental LD claims. This is the responsibility of the unit commander. The dental officer, however, can assist the commander when the dentist has an accurate record of preexisting dental conditions at the time of deployment. If no such record exists, the unit commander accepts total responsibility for unit personnel LD dental claims.

b. During demobilization, routine dental care will be on a space available basis only. Soldiers will be informed of the following dental options:

(1) Soldiers who served less than 180 days are only eligible for dental care at the government's expense if the dental condition is LD yes and thus not a preexisting dental condition. These soldiers should be provided information on how to access dental care through the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) at <http://mmso.med.navy.mil>.

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(2) Soldiers who served at least 180 days may be eligible for a dental examination and dental treatment through the VA system. These soldiers should be informed that they can lose this benefit if they do not access the VA system within 90 days following separation from active service. At the dental demobilization site, soldiers in this category should also be advised that they could potentially lose this benefit if a demobilization dental exam and a 603A entry is not made delineating their unmet dental needs. The personnel section uses the 603A to complete DD Form 214, which in turn, the VA uses for verification of veteran benefits.

4. Enclosure 1 is a suggested flow chart for the Dental Demobilization site. Enclosure 2 is an information sheet that can be provided to soldiers explaining both the MMSO and VA systems as related to their specific dental requirements.



"200327a
Algorithm.doc"



"200327b MMSO-VA
Benefits.doc"

5. The point of contact is MAJ Langford at DSN 471-7264.

SIDNEY A. BROOKS
Colonel, DC
Commanding

